

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed September 14, 2006, the Examiner noted that claims 1-3 and 13-36 were pending, that claims 13-15 and 18-25 have been withdrawn from consideration and rejected claims 1-3, 16, 17 and 26-36. Claims 1, 2, 31 and 36 have been amended and claim 37 has been added, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-3 and 13-37 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-2, 31 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Page 4 lines 28-33 of the application states:

The system is characterized in that a user terminal can be connected to a plurality of networks, and has a message display area for displaying a message transmitted and/or received to/from each network. The system also acquires messages transmitted and/or received in a plurality of networks, and displays the acquired messages, on a time series basis, independent of the messages for each of the other plurality of networks.

The application therefore discloses a system of two chat networks. Further, the application at page 9 lines 11-19 states:

When the message display means 20 is started, the cooperation request transmitting means 21 is driven (step S2100 of Fig. 3) to send (step S2101 of Fig. 3) a **cooperation request** (for example, a command called REPORT-MESSAGE) to the chat system 30. The request receiving means 31, of the chat system 30, determines whether it is the cooperation request from the message display means 20. [Emphasis Added]

The application discloses a method of requesting and obtaining cooperation of two chat networks.

To further clarify the claims, claims 1, 2, 31 and 36 are amended to recite: "a chat network having one or more chat channels, upon cooperation being obtained, a chat channel which the chat client connected on a chat network cooperates with chat channels that the chat client connected on another chat network." Support for the amendment found at page 8 lines 1-9, page 8 lines 32 through page 9 line 4, page 9 line 9 through page 11 lines 10 and page 13, lines 16-20.

For the reasons stated above, the application discloses “message acquiring means of the user terminal for acquiring messages transmitted and received to/from each of the plurality of chat networks requested by cooperation request transmitting means, a chat network having one or more chat channels, upon cooperation being requested, a chat channel which a user connected on a chat network cooperates with chat channels that the user connected on another chat network,” of claim 2.

In claim 36, the term “display path” has been amended to “path.” Support for an extended “path” found in the application at page 17 lines 8 to 17.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 16-17, 26-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Redpath in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA) and Tang. Redpath is a chat system of a single network that hides data inputted by one client on a second client's terminal until the carriage return is entered. In contrast, the current claims are directed to a system of controlling a client with access to multiple chat networks. Redpath Fig. 2 is a system of two clients (100, 110) and a single network 105. The discussion at column 3 lines 3-32 of Redpath does not teach or suggest the use of multiple chat networks. Further, Figs. 6a-6c are of three clients in a single chat system, nothing in the discussion teaches or suggests a plurality of chat networks.

Tang is a method of showing the activity of users in a workgroup and further allowing a user to enter chat rooms. Nothing in the Tang teaches or suggests that a client allows a user to enter multiple chat rooms concurrently.

The Admitted prior art RFC 1459 at sec. 3.1 discusses multiple servers, but the multiple servers are not analogous to a plurality of chat networks of the present claims.

As Redpath, APA and Tang do not disclose two chat networks or a plurality of chat networks, the references taken separately or in combination fail to teach or suggest every element of claims 1-3, 16-17, 26-35 and 36. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 16-17 and 26-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Redpath in view of APA and DeSimone. DeSimone at column 13 lines 61-67 simply describes a system where a user invites another user to join a conversation within a chat network. Multiple conversations within a chat network is not synonymous with a plurality of chat networks.

As Redpath, APA and Desimone do not disclose two chat networks or a plurality of chat networks, the references taken separately or in combination fail to teach or suggest every element of claims 1-3, 16-17 and 26-36. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM

Claim 37 has been added. Support for claim 37 found in claims 1, 2 and 36. Redpath, Admitted Prior Art (APA) and Tang taken separately or in combination fail to teach or suggest "choosing from among the plurality of chat networks at least one chat network as an active chat network for receiving messages transmitted by the client from a plurality of chat networks, the chosen network cooperating with another chat network."

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 112. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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